Richland County Board
October 8, 2026

Convene
Chairman Travis Paddock called the meeting of the Richland County Board to order at 7:00pm on October 8, 2026, in the Jail Meeting Room. The meeting was proclaimed open, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and Ted Whitehead led prayer. Attendance: Travis Paddock, Present; Dennis Graves, Present; Brian VanBlaricum, Present; Alexis McFarland, Present; Steve Schonert, Present; Morgan Henton, Present; Cindy Given, via phone.

Changes/Approval of Agenda
Steve Schonert would like to move 7C and 7D under Finance to New Business. Dennis Graves made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Steve Schonert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Information, Correspondence, Upcoming Meetings
708 will meet on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at twelve o'clock pm in the conference room. 911 will meet on October 28, 2026, at nine o'clock am at the fire station.

Open
Ray Vaughn and Lauren McClain were in attendance to discuss the Mental Health 708 Committee along with their one- and three-year plan. They asked the board for an increase in their funding, which comes from the County Levy, stating there is a far greater need for assistance than the funding allows for.

Motion/Vote - Consent Agenda
Steve Schonert made a motion to approve all items under the consent agenda. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Items approved were the minutes from September 10, 2026, for County Board, October 1, 2026, for Road and Bridge meeting; the county officer reports; re-appointment of Eric King to Olney Noble Airport Authority Board of Commissioners; culvert aid petition from Bonpas Township; approval of formal notice to Arrow/Carle Ambulance to revise/update ambulance agreement; tax certificates to be acquired by the County at Tax Sale; Special Prosecutor resolution.

Motion/Vote - Finance Committee
Steve Schonert discussed the claims totaling $107,258.67 county and $825,317.98 non-county. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the claims. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.
Steve then discussed transferring money from County General to the Capitol Projects Fund for future IT projects. Steve then made the motion to approve the transferring of $81,445 from County General to Capitol Projects fund. Morgan Henton seconded the motion. The

roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.
Steve discussed a new ordinance that would require the County Board to approve all future loans. Steve made the motion to pass the Loan Ordinance. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Ted Whitehead was in attendance from Snedeker Risk Management to discuss the upcoming renewal of Property/Causality, Workman's Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance. Steve Schonert made a motion to approve the rates from Snedeker for the 2026/2027 year. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report
Sheriff Hires discussed how the transition is going since housing Lawrence County inmates. Lawrence County averaged 14 inmates a day for October.

State's Attorney Report
Mary Beth Welch stated that a total of 418 court cases were heard, 185 felony cases, and 101 new filings for the month of September. Five DOC commitments.

Animal Control
Andrea Edwards stated that twenty dogs have been released from a court hold.
Steve Schonert stated that the current budget allows an additional Animal Control employee.

Old Business
Steve Schonert discussed the Veterinary Service Agreement with Dr. Michels at MVS. Steve then made a motion to approve the Veterinary Service Agreement and applying an upfront payment of $10,000 for future services to help Dr. Michels with her new business. Cindy Given seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, abstain; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.

The board discussed the Jail agreement between Lawrence County and decided to have more discussion with Lawrence County Board. Steve made a motion to have Travis and Dennis finalize the proposal, meet with Lawrence County Board as soon as possible with a monthly and a 3-year agreement with Sheriff Hires and Mary Beth Welch advising. Morgan seconded the motion. There was discussion whether a motion was needed and it was decided that there did not need to be a motion to continue with negotiations.

New Business
Steve discussed what the finance committee is proposing for FY2027 Budget. The projected expenditures are estimated at $5,694,345. Steve discussed that once the budget is passed for public inspection, it must be viewable to the public for fifteen days. The board can still make changes and do a final vote in November. Morgan Henton asked if changes

are made, would the budget need to be open for fifteen more days. Steve answered No. Steve explained that in the proposed budget, the salary lines had been cut for County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Sheriff, and State's Attorney. After much discussion between County Clerk Troyer, Circuit Clerk Holder, State's Attorney Welch, Sheriff Hires and the board members, Steve Schonert made a motion to approve adding the needed budget back for County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, and State's Attorney salary line. Changes as follows; $20,000 added to County Clerk, $25,000 for State's Attorney, and $16,150 for Circuit Clerk. Steve then made a motion to pass the budget of $6,225,020for public inspection. Dennis Graves seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, no. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, no; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.

Steve then discussed the Capital Projects Budget and setting aside $450,000 for future projects such as new AED in the courthouse, a salt bunker for Highway, body scanner for the jail, phone upgrades and several other items. Steve made a motion to accept the presented Capital Budget for public inspection. Brian VanBlaricum seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, yes; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.

Steve discussed the proposed County Tax Levy. The proposed levy is a 14% increase from last year. The levy is a total of $3,700,100 plus $200,000 for Public Building Commission. Steve explained to the board that anything over 5% requires a Truth in Taxation hearing. Steve made a motion to accept the levy as proposed and hold a Truth in Taxation hearing. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The roll call was as follows; Steve Schonert, yes; Alexis McFarland, yes; Travis Paddock, yes. Dennis Graves, yes; Brian VanBlaricum, yes; Morgan Henton, no; Cindy Given, yes. Motion carried.

Truth in Taxation hearing date will be set.

Adjournment

Cindy Given made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alexis McFarland seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Amanda Troyer	Travis Paddock
County Clerk	County Board Chairman